

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The claims stand rejected in view of the art references of DE 41 26 815 to Randers ("Randers") and JP Application No. HEI 9-81199 to Fujimoto ("Fujimoto"). In addition, the claims also stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,259,691 to Naudus ("Naudus") and obvious in view of Naudus. In response, Applicants have amended the rejected claims to overcome the rejections, as follows.

As to Claim 1, this claim has been amended to recite a method that is neither anticipated or obvious in view of the art references of record. The method is directed to subjecting an input sequence of decoded data obtained from a speech decoder to a first delay. The input sequence has at least one distorted non-voice sequence that represents a non-voice signal. Then, the input sequence is subjected to a second delay that is longer than the first delay. This is done in response to determining that a non-voice signal is likely to be encountered in a next frame of the decoded data. Then, a substantially undistorted non-voice sequence is inserted into the output sequence in response to having identified the non-voice signal in the distorted sequence. Neither Randers, Fujimoto, or Naudus teach or suggest such a method.

Although each of these references pertains to the detection of DTMF signals in a voice coding/decoding system, and in particular, as to Randers and Fujimoto at least, a method for regenerating a DTMF signal with a resulting delay from the detection process, there is no suggestion of modifying any of these techniques to arrive at the method in Applicants' Claim 1 as amended here, where the input sequence of decoded data is subjected to two different delays, one longer than the other, and the dual operations of first determining that a non-voice signal is likely to be encountered and then making an attempt to identify the non-voice signal. Accordingly, it is submitted that Claim 1 as amended here is neither anticipated or obvious in view of the relied upon art references.

Claim 11 also stands rejected in view of the same art references. This claim however has been amended with subject matter taken from Claim 14 which was indicated as being allowable. The language in Claim 11 has been further amended editorially, without affecting the scope of the claim as to the language that refers to "A select signal", "multiplexer A", and "multiplexer B". In addition, antecedent basis

problems were noted with respect to "the decoder" and "the B select signal" language which have also been corrected.

As to Claim 15, this claim has also been amended to overcome the art rejection, by incorporating subject matter taken from Claim 16 which was indicated as being allowable.

The rejected Claims 20-23 have been cancelled, such that what remains of the original claims is believed to be in condition for allowance.

In addition, new Claims 24-32 have been added, without introducing any new matter. In this set of new claims, Claims 24-27 are directed to a method for processing an input sequence of data, where the input sequence is subjected back to a first delay in response to detecting no non-voice signals during a given time interval in which the input sequence was subjected to a longer, second delay. For support, see the specification as filed at page 4, second full paragraph; page 6, last full paragraph to page 8, and in connection with Figure 3. See also page 9, second full paragraph to page 11, third full paragraph.

None of the relied upon art references mentioned above teaches or suggests the method in new Claims 24-27 in which the input sequence is subjected back to the shorter, first delay in response to detecting no non-voice signals during a given time interval in which the input sequence is subjected to a longer, second delay. There are of course additional reasons why these new claims, and especially the dependent claims, are neither anticipated or obvious; these however are not necessary to discuss at this time.

As to new Claims 28-32, these claims are directed to an article of manufacture, having a machine readable medium in which stored data is to process a sequence of input data to first determine whether it is likely that any non-voice signal is present and if so attempt to identify it, but that if a non-voice is not detected to stop the detection processing. For support, see the specification as filed, p. 41, last paragraph, to p. 16. This dual stage processing has the advantage of subjecting the output to a shorter delay, and then increasing the delay only if a non-voice signal is predicted. The shorter delay is possible because the non-voice signal need not be identified, but only predicted. Once predicted, a longer delay (possibly needed for identifying the non-voice signal) may be prescribed. None of the relied upon art references mentioned above teach or

suggest such a technique for detecting and regenerating non-voice signals in a sequence of decoded data from a speech decoding process.


There are of course additional reasons why these new claims, and especially the dependent claims, are neither anticipated or obvious; these however are not necessary to discuss at this time.

In sum, a good faith attempt has been made to address all rejections and to present claims that are believed to be in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance referring to Claims 1-13, 15, 17-19, and 24-32 is respectfully requested to issue at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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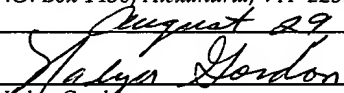
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